(b) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned and the extent of cost escalation, if any, the project has so far undergone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) The physical progress made on the project as of October, 1991 was about 87%.

(b) The project is likely to be commissioned by October, 1992. As per the revised cost estimates there is a likely escalation of about Rs. 122 crores at September, 1990 prices.

[*Translation*]

External Assistance for Sardar Sarovar Project

3569. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has forwarded any proposal to the Union Government for obtaining external assistance for the Sardar Sarovar project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken hereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The project envisages utilisation of 0.5 million acre feet of Narmada water from the SARDAR Sarovar project to irrigate 73,157 hactares of land in the drought prone districts of Jalore and Barmer. Besides Irrigation, the Project also provides for drinking water to a population of about 3.13 lakhs in 124 villages in and around the irrigation command.

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 467.53 crores at 1989-90 price leval. The World Bank has been requested to include this project in the pipeline for assistance, but no response has so far been received from them.

Promotion of Sprinkler Cultivation in Rajasthan

3570. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage sprinkler cultivation in Rajasthan in view of increased oilseed production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sprinkler cultivation is included under the assistance programme of National Oilseeds Development Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Distribution of sprinkler sets is one of the components under Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production programme (OPP). This programme is in operation in Rajasthan along with other States. during 1991-92, an allocation of Rs 50 lakh has been made for 500 sprinkler sets for distribution amongst the farmers of Rajasthan State.

Supply of Coal to Suratgarh Thermal Power Project

3571. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: